

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PALERM 00777 081104Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 SS-15 /107 W
-----128880 082000Z /14

R 081030Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL PALERMO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2567
INFO U.S. MISSION E.C. BRUSSELS 0001
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS PALERMO 0777

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, IT
SUBJECT: SICILY-SPAN FEVER

REF: PALERMO 0771

SUMMARY: AUGUST 5 STATEMENTS IN MESSINA SUGGEST ANDREOTTI
GOVERNMENT
IS AT LEAST RHETORICALLY SERIOUS ABOUT MESSINA BRIDGE PROJECT AND
WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OTHER INVESTMENTS IN MEZZOGIORNO. END
SUMMARY.

1. IN AUGUST 5 DISCUSSION IN MESSINA, DC SENATOR OSCAR ANDO',
A LONG-TIME BACKER OF THE STRAITS BRIDGE PROJECT, TOLD US
HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER AT LENGTH PREVIOUS EVENING WITH PRIME
MINISTER ANDREOTTI. ANDREOTTI HAD BEEN PUZZLED BY DOUBTS AND
RETICENCE WHICH HIS PRO-BRIDGE REMARKS HAD STIMULATED IN
SICILIAN POLITICAL CIRCLES (REFTEL). ANDO' REJOINED THAT ALL
SICILIANS, POLITICIANS AND OTHERWISE, UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED
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PROJECT BUT NOT TO EXCLUSION OF OTHER NEEDED INVESTMENTS IN
SOUTH. ANDO' URGED ANDREOTTI TO MAKE CLEAR STATEMENT THAT BRIDGE
WOULD BE PART OF TOTAL SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE, NOT ALL
OF IT.

2. IN REMARKS SAME DAY AT OPENING OF MESSINA INTERNATIONAL FAIR, INDUSTRY UNDERSECRETARY SINESIO, A DC DEPUTY FROM WESTERN SICILY, PRAISED BRIDGE PROJECT AS VITAL LINK IN EUROPE AND INSISTED THAT ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT DID NOT SEE BRIDGE PROJECT AS REPLACEMENT FOR OTHERS BEING CONSIDERED TO STIMULATE SOUTHERN ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT. AS HAD ANDO', SINESIO ALSO NOTED EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) HAD CATEGORIZED BRIDGE AS PROJECT WORTHY OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT. COLLINS

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 970825
Subject: SICILY-SPAN FEVER
TAGS: BEXP, IT
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